



WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. OF L., BY INSTRUCTION OF ST. LOUIS CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS.

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
HEADQUARTERS

801-809 G ST. N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

FRANK MORRISON, SECRETARY SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT

No. 30.

McNAMARA FUND

Burns' Statement That Million Dollars Has Been Raised for Defense is Evidence of "Mental Disease."

Washington, Oct. 28.—"Burns' statement that the American Federation of Labor has collected \$1,000,000 for the defense of the McNamaras is purely his own invention, whether from malice to prevent the collection of funds for an adequate defense for the McNamara brothers, or whether it is the mental disease with which he has become afflicted, the people themselves must determine," said President Gompers, in answer to Detective Burns' declaration before the students at Columbia University. The assertions made by Burns are not in accord with the facts. It must be remembered that in this contest for a fair and impartial trial, the defense is compelled to meet a solidified and bitter combination of employers' organizations that have vast sums of money upon which to draw, to convict the men charged with destroying the Los Angeles Times plant. This assault by the employers' associations, as indicated by the first published statements given out in the press, is not directed except incidentally, at the men charged with the crime, but is aimed against the organizations of labor. The expense already incurred in collecting evidence, the employment of able counsel, and generally building up the defense, has been very large. There is no process by which the total amount necessary to defray the legitimate expenses can be determined. Up to this point it has been difficult to provide the amount considered necessary by the attorneys having the case in charge. There is pressing need for more funds and the organizations of labor are being constantly urged to do their utmost in supplying the munitions whereby the defense may be able to present its case and bring to light all the facts connected therewith.

TAYLOR SYSTEM HEARING

New York, Oct. 28.—On Wednesday, October 25, Congressman Wilson, Chairman of the House Labor Committee, held a hearing in this city, the "Taylor System of Shop Management" being the subject. In the closing hours of the extra session of Congress a resolution was adopted authorizing the Labor Committee to make an investigation of this system and report to Congress. A session of the Committee has been held in Boston and it is expected that other cities will be visited in the future.

IMPORTANT SETTLEMENT

After a Two Years' Contest Between United Garment Workers and St. Louis Clothing Firm, Settlement Has Been Reached.

St. Louis, Oct. 28.—A settlement has been reached with the firm of Marx & Haas, clothing manufacturers, and the local unions of Garment Workers. Some two years ago a disagreement occurred between the firm mentioned and the United Garment Workers and a lockout and strike resulted. The Company announced its intention of conducting a non-union establishment in the future. This firm had built up a large business through the use of the label of the United Garment Workers. The Garment Workers have been contesting the position taken by the Company and as a result an agreement has been reached whereby the Marx & Haas Company are to re-employ their former employes and are to again use the label after the expiration of six months. This victory is a notable one for the Garment Workers.

CONTEMPT CASE ARGUED

American Federation of Labor Officials Plead the Statute of Limitations and Court Reserves Decision.

Washington, Oct. 28.—The alleged contempt case against Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison recently occupied the attention of all the six judges of the District Supreme Court, who heard the argument on the motion to dismiss the proceedings in alleged contempt, brought against the Federation officials by the committee appointed by Justice Wright. The motion was based on the alleged failure by the committee to file a replication to the answer of the labor men to the charges of contempt presented by the committee. Should the court decline to dismiss the proceedings as requested, there is to be heard a motion on behalf of the committee to name an examiner to take proof of the charges of contempt and testimony by the labor men in defense of the allegations against them. Attorneys Alton B. Parker and Jackson H. Ralston appeared for the Federation officials.

BIG MINERS' STRIKE

Denver, Oct. 28.—A large number of miners in the Southern Colorado coal fields have gone on strike. A remarkable feature of the situation is the fact that the miners on strike are unorganized and the agitation is, up to this point, being carried on by non-union men.

The chief complaint of the miners is over the conditions surrounding the screening of coal. They assert that under the present system the companies can, and do, cheat them, and they want redress... Companies in the southern field compel the men to screen the coal in the mines, but only pay for the lump coal. It is also charged by the men that the companies unscrupulously fix the screen so that only half the coal is saved to the men, the other half falling through the screens, and goes to the company as clear profit, the digger getting nothing for it. It is stated that the coal miners have sought for some time to induce the company to concede changes in the screening methods, but have been turned down at all of the conferences. The unorganized men in this section struck over the same grievance in 1903.

IRISH STRIKE RESULTS

Dublin, Oct. 28.—Owing to the strike of the Great South Western Railway in Ireland, traffic returns for the past three weeks show a decrease of \$165,000 as compared with the corresponding week last year. There has also been a strike of Irish bakers, which began recently in Dublin. The Belfast bakers have now decided to come out on strike unless an advance of 50¢ per week is granted. An effort is being made to form an Irish Federation of Labor to bring all the trades in closer relations.

UNIONS AMALGAMATE

London, Oct. 28.—The labor organizations in Great Britain are seeking closer affiliation and amalgamation. The amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners and the Associated Carpenters and Joiners, representing 68,000 members, have just joined forces, and the Textile Workers of the West Riding, of Yorkshire, have arranged a working agreement. A general meeting of the committee for the consolidation of the building industry's trade unions into one organization will be held shortly.

GENERAL STRIKE ORDERED

Paris, Oct. 28.—A general strike has been declared at Oette, France, and 90 per cent of the working people, including all shop assistants, have joined. Oette is the most important French Mediterranean port west of Marseilles.

SCHENECTADY STREET CAR STRIKE

Schenectady, N. Y., Oct. 28.—The Schenectady Railway Company's lines are completely tied up. The effort on the part of the Street Railway Employees' Association to unionize the lines of the Schenectady Railway Company has been successful and as a result of this success, six men were discharged for joining the union, as a consequence of which a strike was called to reinstate the men. The outlook is bright for a complete victory.

A BIG INCREASE

New York, Oct. 28.—The International Union of Pavers, Rammermen and Flagg Layers reports that it has been successful in advancing the wages for its men in the laying of wood block pavement from \$3.20 to \$5.00 per day, without friction. This international union, while not large, has been extremely successful in increasing the wages of its members and securing splendid working conditions.

PRESIDENT KLINE RE-ELECTED

Washington, Oct. 28.—At the convention of the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, recently held in Atlanta, Ga., J. W. Kline, of Chicago, was re-elected President and W. F. Kramer, was re-elected Financial Secretary. President Kline is also directing the big Harriman lines strike.

TEXTILE WORKERS CONVENTION

New York, Oct. 28.—The most successful convention ever held by the Textile Workers has just been concluded. The international per capita tax has been increased to a point where sufficient funds will hereafter be provided to prosecute with greater vigor the work which is necessary to be performed in the interest of the Textile Workers. A number of important changes in the general laws were made and provision also made to publish a monthly journal. The publication of the official organ will be commenced immediately. It was also decided to place a woman organizer on the road. The convention also made provisions for a salary for President Golden. Reports are to the effect that the convention was the best ever held by this organization.

"A MARTYR TO HIS CAUSE"

Washington, Oct. 28.—The moving picture film entitled "A Martyr to His Cause", depicting various scenes in the McNamara kidnapping, which was gotten out by the McNamara Ways and Means Committee of the American Federation of Labor, is meeting with pronounced success. The results obtained, from a financial point of view, in Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Toledo have been extremely gratifying. The following are the cities and the dates on which the film will be used: Dayton, O., Oct. 26-27-28; Cleveland, O., Oct. 29 to Nov. 4; Detroit, Mich., Nov. 6-12. Other dates are being negotiated for and will be given publicity as soon as they are settled upon.

MINERS ON STRIKE

Bristol, Eng., Oct. 28.—The coal miners in this district are practically all on strike, the wage agreement of 1907 having been violated. This agreement was to the effect that wages should rise and fall with the adjoining Somerset coal field, and although this has been carried into effect when decreases have taken place in the Somerset district, when an increase of 3 pence per day was given in Somerset, the Bristol operators refused to comply. The matter was referred to the Board of Trade to inquire into the matter. It seems that the report of the Board of Trade was susceptible of any kind of an interpretation, but generally considered to be against the men. As a consequence, the miners have ceased work to enforce the 1907 agreement. There are 8,000 miners idle.

APPRECIATES WEEKLY LETTER

Washington, Oct. 28.—The following is an excerpt from a letter just received from Charles R. Oliver, Editor and Manager of the Industrial Advocate, Pittston, Pa.: "Have been using the weekly news letter ever since it was started and think it the best move the organization ever made. Our readers are highly delighted with getting authentic news from all over the country. We believe the A. F. of L. stamp on this news service is just what the union label is on manufactured products—that it is reliable, trustworthy and not manufactured at so much per column, as much of the daily news is. We want to extend our well wishes for its continuance".

ASK MEDIATION

Erdman Act Invoked by Order of Railroad Telegraphers and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

Baltimore, Oct. 28.—A joint letter has been forwarded to Martin A. Knapp, Judge of the Commerce Court, and Charles P. Neill, Commissioner of Labor, by representatives of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers and the officials of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, requesting them to act as mediators in accordance with the provisions of the Erdman Act. The Railroad Telegraphers ask an increase in their wage scale averaging 15 per cent, 15 days vacation with full or extra pay in lieu thereof, reduction of hours, the right to represent employees associated with the Telegraphers, such as lever men and station agents, and the exclusion of students of telegraphy from telegraph offices.

NATIONAL MINE SAFETY DEMONSTRATION

Pittsburg, Oct. 28.—Demonstrations by the United States Bureau of Mines will be made at the Arsenal Grounds, this city, and at the experimental mine of the Bureau near Bruceton, Pa., on October 30. There will be exhibits and tests of mine safety lamps in a lamp gallery, of electric sparks in the presence of an inflammable mixture of air and gas, of training in rescue work with oxygen helmets, and other investigations and tests of explosives. There is to be an actual explosion at the experimental mine at Wallace Station, near Bruceton, Pa. This mine has been opened and equipped by the Bureau of Mines with instruments for recording pressures, the speed of travel of detonation wave, with various equipment for the making of actual explosions due to gas and dust and their observation and study; also of conducting tests of coal cutting machines, gasoline motor, electrical motor, and other mine locomotives and apparatus under working conditions within the mine. It is expected that there will be a large number of miners present, also President Taft.

RAILWAY UNIONS OPPOSED

London, Oct. 28.—The Royal Commission appointed last August as the result of the dispute between the employees and railways, has made its report. The attitude of the Commission is not satisfactory to the employees, owing to the fact that the Commissioners assert that, "with the great responsibility of the railway companies, they cannot and should not be expected to permit any interference by the men on the subjects of discipline and management". This means that the Commission takes the position that the companies involved should not recognize the existence of the railway unions, or deal with them as organized bodies. Undoubtedly under this decision future complications will arise.

GENERAL STRIKE IN PARIS

Paris, Oct. 28.—A general strike among the Building Trades at Paris, involving 80,000 mechanics, is on. Abolition of piece work and pace making, with the establishment of a 9-hour day for the industry, are the issues.

LAUNDRY WORKERS IN RUSSIA

Washington, Oct. 28.--The general price for laundering collars is 5 cents each in Russia, with other articles in that proportion. The hours of service for the employes are from 7 a. m. to 6 p. m., with an hour for lunch, but, with an extra portion of cheap tea, a slice of black bread and a glass of vodka, the employe is usually content to prolong the service until 9 p. m. The wages paid to women are from \$4.00 to \$8.00 per month, with room and board included, but the living quarters are in the cellar and the food of the coarsest kind. Mechanics in these laundries command, under same conditions, about 70¢ a day.

RECALL BECOMING POPULAR

New York, Oct. 28.--The effect of the recent success in California of the amendment to the constitution providing for the recall of public officers, the judiciary included, is widespread. At a meeting held in New York, since the result of the election has been known, ex-President Roosevelt, in an address before the Civic Forum, came out in support of the recall of the judiciary. The veto by the President of the Arizona Statehood Bill, based that document entirely upon the "recall of judges" feature, and this has proven to be one of the best arguments why the recall should be adopted. The recall is an extremely live question in all of the western states.

INJUNCTION DENIED

New York, Oct. 28.--United States Judge Ward denied the application of the Review of Reviews Company for an injunction restraining Postmaster-General Hitchcock from transporting its magazines as second class mail matter by fast freight trains, instead of by fast mail. The Review Company insinuated that the Postmaster-General was actuated by personal feelings in putting the "Outlook", of which former President Roosevelt is an editor, on the express trains, while the "Review of Reviews" was consigned to a fast freight.

A RUMOR HITCHCOCK WILL QUIT

Washington, Oct. 28.--There is a persistent rumor in this city that Postmaster-General Hitchcock will resign the first of the year. It is also rumored that one of the main reasons why he is to vacate is on account of the uncompromising fight which he made against the employes of the postal service becoming members of unions attached to the American Federation of Labor. It is intimated that he desires to relieve the present administration of an unnecessary load.

PRESS FEEDERS GET RAISE

New York, Oct. 28.--The Lithographic Press Feeders in New York City have been granted an increase in wages from 8 to 12 per cent. Negotiations looking toward the increase have been in progress nearly a year and the result has been reached without friction. This is the second substantial increase in the past four years.

TO PROTECT WORKMEN

Congressional Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation Commission Reach a Conclusion.

Washington, Oct. 28.—The Congressional Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation Commission has practically decided to recommend the enactment of a law providing for the insurance of employees of interstate railroads against injury by accident by requiring the roads to make payments for any injury inflicted. No vote has been taken, however, but it was admitted by the Commissioners themselves that they were unanimously in favor of the direct payment plan, and also to confining the operation of the proposed law to employers of roads engaged in interstate commerce only. The plan which the Commission proposes to adopt is the prevailing one in Great Britain, and, while it requires direct payment by the roads to injured employees, the instrumentality of the national government is invoked in carrying the law into effect.

THE ANTI-BOYCOTTER BOYCOTTING

Los Angeles, Oct. 28.—Trade Union buster Otis, who has inveighed so viciously and continuously against the trade unions and their policies, and especially the boycott, is now participating in one of the most vigorous boycotting programs ever witnessed in Los Angeles. Some weeks ago the owner of the "Evening Express" established a morning paper, the Tribune, in competition with the Times, Examiner and Herald. Since the invasion of the morning newspaper field by the Tribune, it has been impossible to buy the Tribune at any news stand, or of any newsboy who handles the Times, Examiner or Herald. An investigation was made and the proprietors of the news stands and the newsboys corroborated each others statements that the edict had gone forth from the Times, Examiner and Herald that if they endeavored to handle the Tribune, they would be unable to purchase the three papers mentioned.

RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION URGED

Omaha, Oct. 28.—At the meeting of the American Prison Congress recently held here, the unanimous opinion was expressed that America should immediately amend its immigration laws in order to prevent the great influx of undesirable immigrants now coming to this country. It was stated that it would require fully three or four generations to eliminate the tendencies of a certain class of immigrants under the most favorable conditions, social and religious, to make them industrious, peaceable and law-abiding citizens.

FOREIGN WAGES IN NATAL

Washington, Oct. 28.—The United States Consul at Durban reports that the white overseers on tea and sugar estates receive from \$40 to \$150 per month; white farm hands, \$15 to \$25; free Indians, men, \$5 to \$10 and women, \$2.50 to \$6.25; indentured Indians, men, \$2.50 to \$4, and women, \$1.25 to \$1.85 per month. The average wage for native men is about \$5, and for women about \$2.50. This foreign labor, however, is housed and fed by the employer in addition to the wages paid. The wage scale of this class of labor is rising.

STRIKE AVERTED

London, Oct. 28.—The threatened strike of the Lancashire cotton operatives over the question of non-unionists working in the Gatefield Mill, Burnley, has been averted. Four non-unionists, who formerly declined to join the union, reconsidered their attitude and became members of the Textile Union, thus averting a strike which would have involved over 200,000 workers.

FOR MINIMUM WAGE SCALE

London, Oct. 28.—The Miners' Federation of Great Britain determined to establish a minimum wage at its conference. The next meeting will be held on November 14, when it will be decided whether active steps shall be taken to secure an individual district minimum wage for all the workers in mines in the area of the Federation, without reference to working places being abnormal. It is felt to be possible that in a number of districts the employers will agree to fix a minimum wage, thus preventing a national stoppage, should difficulty be encountered in establishing a minimum.

EMPLOYERS TO COMBINE

London, Oct. 28.—There is to be inaugurated in Great Britain a Federation of Manufacturers and a circular has been sent to a large number of prominent firms, asking them to join in the scheme. It is stated that the new Federation is to provide means whereby strike breakers can be procured in case of industrial disputes, and assuming the same functions as are found in employers' associations in America.

SPURIOUS LABELS

Chicago, Oct. 28.—The Chicago Allied Printing Trades Council has just issued a revised directory of the union printing offices of Chicago using the Allied Printing Trades Council label. A prominent feature of the directory is a reproduction of the spurious and fake labels now being used in Chicago by dual and unrecognized unions. Three of the labels are the so-called job printers' union, an organization of bedroom printers, open shop advocates and renegades. Among the other four is included the emblem of the "Wonder Workers", officially styled Industrial Workers of the World, an organization that is willing to take anything and everything, willing to pay tribute to its originators in the shape of dues. These fake labels, however, are but infrequently seen.

MUNICIPAL TRAMWAY REPORT

Washington, Oct. 28.—The gross profits of the Sheffield, Eng., municipal tramways for the last fiscal year were \$650,821. The amount transferred for the relief of the district rates was \$129,162. This latter sum, as the transfer indicates, is covered into the general treasury and indirectly relieves the rate or taxpayers. Those who do not own property, therefore, do not participate in the profits of the municipal tramway.

COMING CONVENTIONS

American Federation of Labor, Union Label, Metal Trades and Building Trades Departments Meet in Atlanta, Ga.

Washington, Oct. 28.—The annual conventions of the American Federation of Labor and its auxiliary departments will be held this year in the South, Atlanta, Ga., having been selected. Efforts have been put forth by the officers of the A. F. of L. to secure reduced transportation rates for the delegates, but success has been attained only with the Southeastern Passenger association, whose jurisdiction includes all points in territory south of the Ohio and Potomac and east of the Mississippi rivers, and from Washington, D. C., Cincinnati, O., Evansville, Ind., and Cairo, Ill., in which territory round trip tickets will be sold at a reduction which amounts to about a fare and a fifth of the regular one way rate; and the Trunk Line association, whose territory is from Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Suspension Bridge, Dunkirk and Salamanca, N. Y., Erie and Pittsburg, Pa., Bellaire, O., Wheeling, Parkersburg and Kenova, W. Va., and points east thereof, except New England. The Union Label Department convention opens on Thursday, Nov. 9; the Metal Trades Department, on Friday, Nov. 10. On Monday, Nov. 13, the convention of the American Federation of Labor convenes, the sessions usually continuing for two weeks. The Building Trades Department convention will convene on Monday, Nov. 27, and continue until the transaction of its business is completed.

BUTTON WORKERS' STRIKE

Muscatine, Ia., Oct. 28.—The strike situation in this city remains unchanged, with perhaps the exception that the members of the Button Workers' Union are more determined, if that is possible, than ever before. The meetings which are being held regularly, are enthusiastic and no desertions are reported. The non-union workers are decreasing in number and it has been found that those who are now employed are incompetent and unsatisfactory to the firms involved in the trouble. The outlook is extremely favorable to the strikers.

A NOTABLE VICTORY

Washington, Oct. 28.—The Maintenance of Way Employees (railroad track men) have won a victory on the railroads in Georgia. An organization has just been effected and as a result their work day has been reduced from sunup to sundown, to ten hours. A short conference held between the officials and the organization resulted in the establishment of the hours mentioned.

RESCUE CAR SAVES MINERS

Pittsburg, Oct. 28.—Mine Rescue Car No. 7, of the United States Bureau of Mines, after making a quick run to Lore City, Ohio, was successful in rescuing eight men that had been caught in a burning mine. The car's crew, with oxygen helmets and other safety appliances, was responsible for the rescue.

North Dakota has just organized a State Federation of Labor and affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

TO AUCTION OFF CONVICTS

Milwaukee, Oct. 28.—The Board of Control of Wisconsin is advertising for proposals for the labor of approximately 300 prisoners at the State Penitentiary at Waupun, for a term of five years. The contract will include the necessary power, light and heat, and the necessary floor space for machinery, office and shop room. Accordingly, these convicts are being placed on the auction block, to be disposed of to the highest bidder in a similar manner to the black slaves prior to 1860. Wisconsin is considered a progressive state and it is hoped that progress may proceed along such definite lines as to prohibit in the near future contracting the labor of the inmates of its penal institutions.

MINISTERS ADOPT MINIMUM WAGE

Duluth, Minn., Oct. 28.—At a convention in this city of Minnesota Baptists, a resolution was adopted establishing the minimum wage of an unmarried minister at \$700 per year and that of a married minister at \$900 per year. While it has been popular in the past to criticize the organizations of labor for establishing wage scales, it appears that the labor unions have imitators. It is to be hoped that the Baptist ministers' Union will be successful in establishing its minimum wage without friction. The Baptist Ministers' Union is not confronted with the open shop question, as all of the Baptist ministers are members of the Baptist Ministers' union. The men of labor extend their moral sympathy to the Baptist ministers' union in its effort to procure a living wage.

UNREST ON MIDLAND RAILWAY

London, Oct. 28.—Great restlessness is apparent among the employees of the Midland Railway Company, on account of the belief that the Company is not conforming to the terms of settlement in the recent strike. It is reported that the company is dismissing, reducing and removing large numbers of men who came out on strike, and the Railway Men's Union has called on the Board of Trade to enforce the strike settlement with the company. It is stated positively that if this is ineffectual, the men will again be called out on strike. A number of men, with 20-year unblemished records, have been taken off their jobs and supplanted by so-called loyal men, who did not join the strike.

UGHT TO BE PROSECUTED

Washington, Oct. 28.—H. W. Belnap, Chief Inspector of Safety Appliances, has recommended to the Interstate Commerce Commission that the Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie Railroad Company be prosecuted for violation of the Hours of Service Law. This recommendation is because of a collision near Superior, Wis. July 5 last, in which four trainmen were killed and two injured. The men responsible for this collision had been on duty 18 hours and 50 minutes. Mr. Belnap reports that 107 miles of this road had no telegraph office in operation either day or night.